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# THE LEON COUNTY 2018 DISASTER SURVIVAL GUIDE



**#HURRICANE  
STRONG™**

Leon County is the nation's  
first **#HurricaneStrong**  
community — find more  
information inside

**wfsu**  
PUBLIC MEDIA

**88.9** For emergency  
updates on the radio

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## Leon County Government

Emergency Management  
Public Safety Complex  
911 Easterwood Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32311  
(850) 606-3700

## Leon County Community and Media Relations

Leon County Courthouse  
5th floor  
301 S Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 606-5300

People Focused.  
Performance Driven.

**LeonCountyFL.gov**

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**#HURRICANE  
STRONG™**

**Leon County is proud to be the nation's  
first #HurricaneStrong community**



**FLASH®**  
Strengthening Homes &  
Safeguarding Families



**FEMA**



# A prepared community is a resilient community

**VINCENT S. LONG**  
County Administrator



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The County's Disaster Survival Guide you are holding now gives you all the information you need to be prepared before, during, and after disaster. As a learning organization, Leon County focuses on listening to

our citizens and extracting every lesson possible after emergencies.

This commitment to learning and building resilience has led to Leon County being named the nation's first #HurricaneStrong community by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition, the designation recognizes the Board of County Commissioners for their leadership in building our community's resilience and their continued focus on public safety. #HurricaneStrong acknowledges our entire community and all the efforts of our neighborhoods,

partners, and citizens to be a model of resilience for the entire nation. For years, both FLASH and FEMA sought a community that embodied what it means to be #HurricaneStrong: resilient, responsive, and dedicated to learning and improving.

And while we are proud to be #HurricaneStrong, it's not a one-and-done label; rather, it's a commitment to always growing stronger and better in the face of disaster. As the first #HurricaneStrong community, we will continue to reflect on the hard work we have done and the new opportunities we can leverage.

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## Prepare now for 2018 hurricane season

**KEVIN PETERS**  
Director  
Leon County Emergency  
Management



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After two hurricanes nearly a year apart from one another, we know that Leon County can be particularly vulnerable to weather-based disasters. But we also know we have a resilient community filled with local officials, neighborhood leaders, and community partners who work around the clock during disaster to keep us safe. And still, all of us need to be prepared for the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season, which is expected to be another active season.

As Hurricane Hermine (2016) and Hurricane Irma (2017) have taught us, every emergency exposes different vulnerabilities, tests a community's partnerships differently, and reveals opportunities for improvement in different ways. Leon County remains committed to making our strong response to emergency even stronger for the next disaster.

You will see Leon County's commitment to #HurricaneStrong reflected throughout the 2018 Disaster Survival Guide. The guide continues our County's commitment to listening, planning, and building upon our past successes. Learning from back-to-back hurricanes, we have continued our community partnership with WFSU radio to provide timely, critical updates on 88.9FM. In addition, the County's Citizen Connect mobile app proved critical for Hurricane Irma, and it's your one-stop shop for all

local emergency information.

The 2018 Disaster Survival Guide is a critical part of your disaster planning. Take it with you when you travel and give copies to your family and friends. The guide is divided into several sections that focus on storm readiness, featuring important information to help you prepare, act and recover.

As the last two hurricanes have taught us, we do our best work responding to disaster when our community works together. So be prepared for the 2018 season by making a disaster plan, gathering your supplies, and staying informed!

If you need help planning and preparing, do not hesitate to contact Leon County Emergency Management at (850) 606-3700. It's critical that our community is prepared and resilient for the next disaster.

# Prepare

Plan now before disaster strikes

Plan now. **When disaster strikes, it is too late to prepare.** This section will help you plan to keep you and your family safe during disasters. Be prepared by having a plan and disaster bucket for your family.

## Build your bucket

Leon County encourages citizens to put disaster supplies in a waterproof and durable five-gallon bucket. Keep these essential items in a bucket near an exit door in your home or in your vehicle

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet supplies   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery powered AM/FM radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos of family members and pets  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket knife   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Can opener                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Portable phone charger   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ponchos  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothing          | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope/paracord  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dust mask                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Special family needs (diapers, feminine hygiene items, etc.)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarp   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Games and toys              | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer              | <input type="checkbox"/> Water  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keys (home and car)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof bag with family documents, including driver's license, insurance information, out-of-area contact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large plastic trash bags    | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local map                   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medications                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent marker            |   |

## Watch or Warning?

Knowing the difference between a watch and warning can help keep you safe.

### Tropical Storm Watch:

An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 of 73 mph) are *possible* within the specified area within 48 hours.

### Tropical Storm Warning:

An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are *expected* within the specified area within 36 hours.

### Hurricane Watch:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *possible* somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

### Hurricane Warning:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are *expected* somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

## 2018 North Atlantic Hurricane Names

Alberto	Gordon	Michael	Tony
Beryl	Helene	Nadine	Valerie
Chris	Isaac	Oscar	William
Debby	Joyce	Patty	
Ernesto	Kirk	Rafael	
Florence	Leslie	Sara	





## Insurance

### 5 Questions to Ask About Your Policy

1. What is my standard deductible?
2. What is my hurricane deductible?
3. Do I need flood insurance?
4. Do I have enough coverage to replace my home and belongings?
5. Do I have loss-of-use coverage for temporary housing expenses?

Not all insurance policies are created equal. Check your policy or talk to your agent to make sure you have sufficient coverage and to determine if any home improvements would qualify for

a discount on premiums. Learn more about insurance policies from the Insurance Information Institute at [iii.org](http://iii.org).

#### Flood Insurance

Most Homeowner Insurance policies **do not** cover damage from rising flood waters. If you own a home in a flood zone, your mortgage company will require you to carry a flood policy. Even if you don't live in a flood zone, consider the additional coverage. To learn more about flood protection, visit [LeonCountyFL.gov/FloodProtection](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/FloodProtection).

Don't wait until it is too late to buy a flood insurance policy. Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period before your policy goes into effect.

#### Renters

Questions to ask:

- Do I know my rental property's risk of flood or storm surge? Do I know my evacuation zone?
- Do I need flood insurance and renter's insurance to cover damage to my personal property?
- Will my landlord protect the windows in a storm? If not, where would I go during a hurricane?

#### Insurance Helpline

The Florida Department of Financial Services' toll-free Insurance Consumer Helpline is available year-around to assist Florida's insurance consumers. Insurance Specialists are available to answer questions or concerns regarding insurance coverage and advocate on a consumer's behalf to resolve a dispute with an insurance company. Consumers may contact an Insurance Specialist at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (693-5236) toll-free, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In the event of a disaster, the Department may activate its Disaster Assistance Insurance Helpline at 1-800-222-STORM (227-8676). Visit [MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers](http://MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers) for more.

### Sandbags

Sandbags are made available by Leon County and the City of Tallahassee for heavy rain. Leon County sandbags are limited to 15 bags per household and citizens should bring shovels to fill bags. Locations will not be staffed, but crews will resupply sites. Sites will remain open until officials determine sandbags are no longer needed. Updates



about sandbag availability will be provided during an emergency at [LeonCountyFL.gov/ei](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/ei).

#### Please note:

*Residents should not rely on sandbags to save their home from major flooding, especially fast moving hurricane storm surge flooding. Consider the severity of flood conditions before deciding whether sandbags would provide effective protection.*



## Stay or go?

### Making the decision

When a hurricane is approaching, will you stay in Leon County or drive miles away to another location? Evacuating to a safe shelter locally or in a neighboring county has advantages; you will avoid traffic jams and highways crowded with vehicles from other counties joining the evacuation. Even if you leave the area, the storm could shift and still put you in harm's way. The next section will guide you through the steps you should take as a storm is approaching and the choices you'll have to make.

## Understanding the forecast

### 5-day cone actions

When the Big Bend area is in the 5-day cone, it's time to implement your plan and preparations. A hurricane is on a probable path to reach our area in five days.

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your disaster bucket and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you have special needs, be sure to implement your plan and, if needed, you are registered for a special needs shelter. See page 9 for more information.

### 3-day cone actions

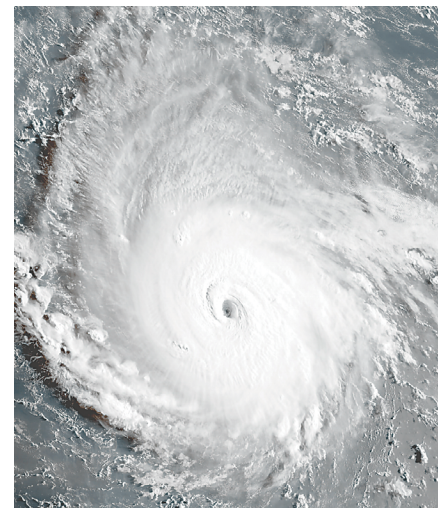
As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast increases and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:

- Double check your disaster bucket and make necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for children, seniors, and pets.

- Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.

### Hurricane Watch actions (48 hours ahead)

- Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Get cash and secure important papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate the area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.



*Hurricane Irma*

- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need in your disaster bucket.

### Hurricane Warning actions (36 hours ahead)

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.

## Evacuation order

- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be ready to leave when contacted. See page 9 for more information.
- Determine if your residence is affected by the evacuation order — does it include your area, or do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?
- If you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the order.
- If you are traveling out of the local area, leave immediately to avoid traffic jams.
- Be aware of your evacuation time range. Evacuations will be issued with beginning and end times.

## Plan to stay if ...

- You live in a structure that was built after 1973 when Florida adopted a standard building code.
- You do not live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- Your home is not vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You have reduced the threat of falling trees by trimming and/or removing dead, dying or diseased trees.
- You have mitigated the effects of severe winds on your home by installing hurricane shutters on windows and bracing your garage door.
- You have prepared a multi-hazard Disaster Response Plan for yourself, your family, and your pets.
- You have prepared a disaster bucket that includes cash, a supply of food, water and a 1-month supply of prescription medicines.
- You have identified a Safe Room within your home.

## Plan to go if ...

- An evacuation order has been issued.
- You live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- You live in a structure that was built prior to 1973 when Florida adopted a standard building code.
- Your home is vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You can leave early enough to meet an estimated regional clearance time of 24 hours. (It is very dangerous to be on the highway during a storm.)



## Mobile homes are not safe havens

A Category 1 hurricane like Hermine, with winds of 74 to 95 mph, can rip apart a mobile home. The National Hurricane Center reports that no mobile home or manufactured home — no matter how new it is — can be a safe shelter from hurricane force winds. Also, tornadoes can spin off from hurricanes.

Straps or other tie-downs will not protect a mobile home from high winds associated with a hurricane. In 1992, 97% of all manufactured homes in Hurricane Andrew's path in Dade County were destroyed, compared to 11% of single-family, non-manufactured homes. If a hurricane threatens Leon County,

all mobile home residents should plan to evacuate to a safer location. If you must evacuate and do not have access to transportation due to age, disability, or other special needs, you should register now with Leon County Emergency Management. See page 9 for more information.



# Evacuations and shelter

## Sheltering info

### What to bring

Risk shelters may only have water, snacks, and a secure area for you to stay safe during a major storm. If you evacuate to a risk shelter during a disaster, please bring the following items:

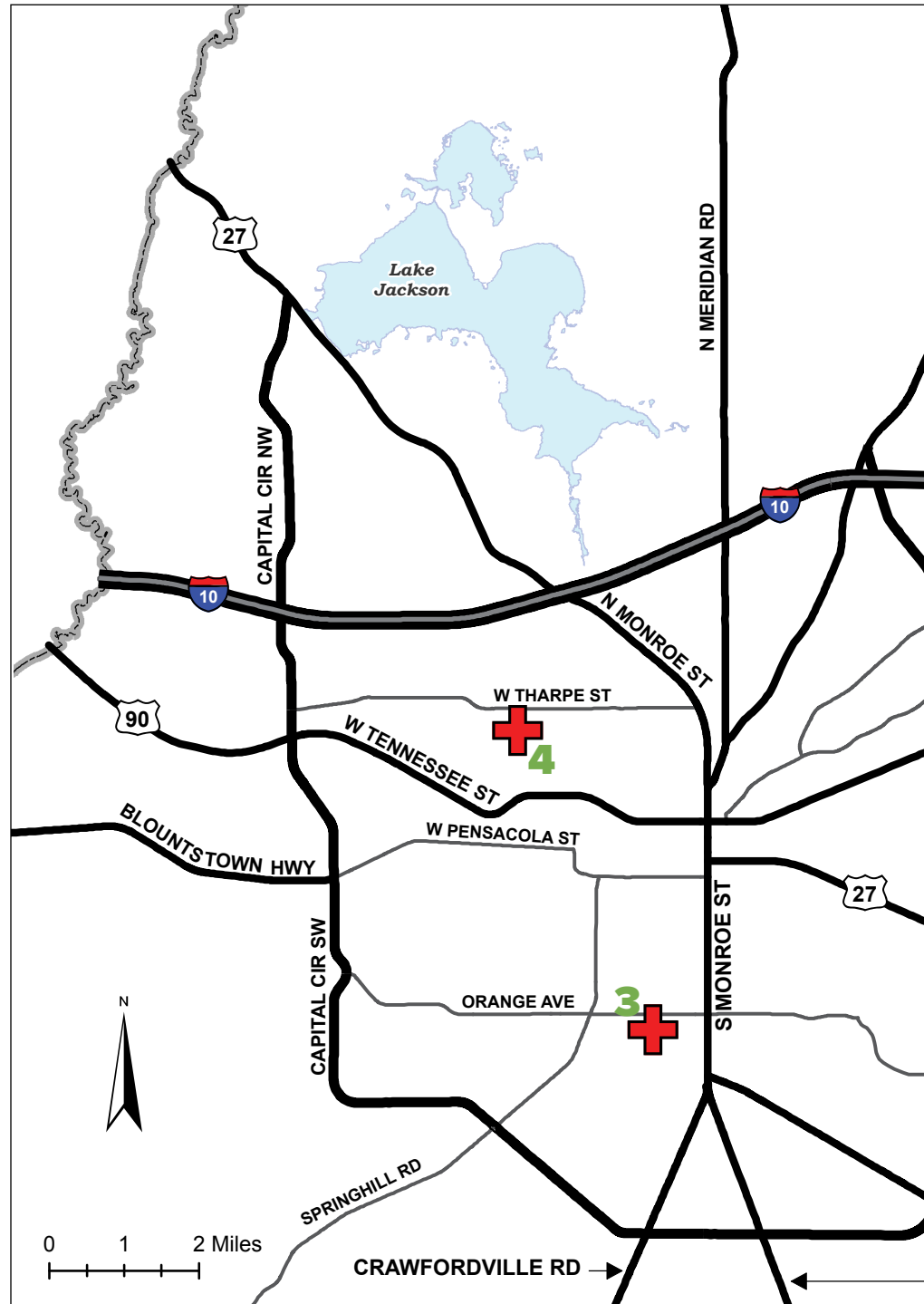
- Toiletries and diapers if you are sheltering with young children
- Prescription medications and any important documents you deem necessary
- Additional snacks, specifically if you have a special diet
- Blankets, pillows, and/or sleeping bags--your accommodations at the shelter may be limited
- Books, puzzles, or other entertainment that do not require electricity

### For the elderly and citizens with special needs

All residents should have personal evacuation plans. Citizens who will need assistance with evacuation and sheltering because of age, disability or other special needs should register online at [SNR.FloridaDisaster.org](http://SNR.FloridaDisaster.org).

All information you provide is confidential and protected under Florida Statutes and **must be updated on an annual basis**. For further assistance with registration, call Leon County Emergency Management at (850) 606-3700.

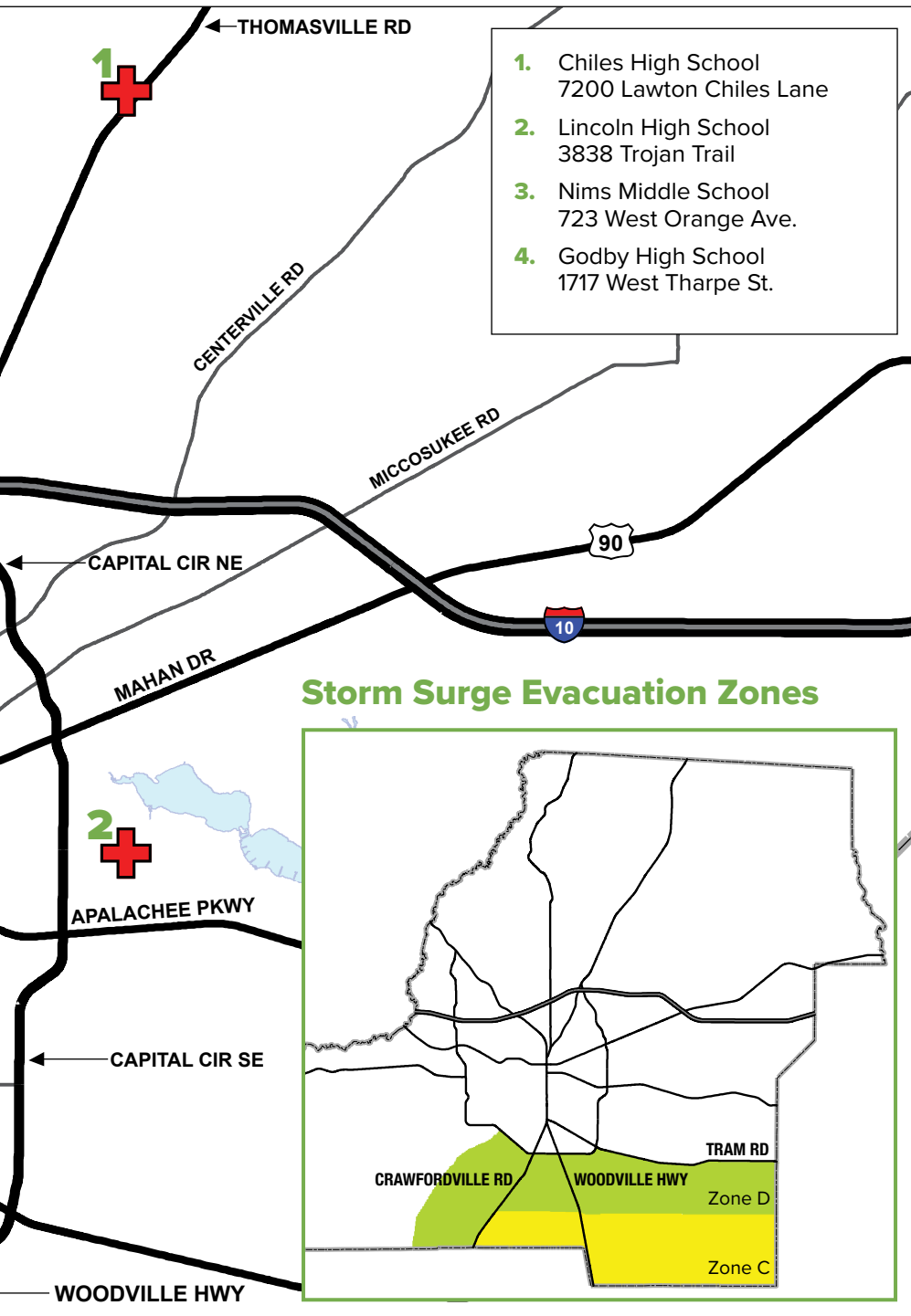
## + Red Cross Shelters □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □



*Please note: Not every shelter will open for every disaster. Please check [LeonCountyFL.gov](http://LeonCountyFL.gov)*

RS

Leon County officials can issue an order directing the evacuation of specific areas of the county deemed to be in danger. Prepare to leave 24 hours prior to the storm landfall in order to give yourself enough time to evacuate.



## Voluntary

If a tropical storm is approaching or a hurricane is expected to cross Florida and pass over Leon County, the danger from storm surge may be lower. Emergency managers may recommend residents in mobile homes or flood prone areas evacuate to higher ground or sturdier shelter.

## Mandatory

The probability of storm surge is high and could be deadly for residents who don't leave. It is illegal to stay in a home under a mandatory evacuation order. Residents living in mobile homes should plan to evacuate to a safer location during a mandatory order.

## Storm Surge

Storm surge is the leading cause of death from hurricanes and is the reason hurricane evacuation orders are issued. The Apalachee Bay is one of the most storm surge prone areas in the Southeast. Areas of southern Leon County have been identified as storm surge evacuation zones. Know your zone!

**Zone C (Yellow)** – Areas east of Crawfordville Highway to the Leon/Jefferson County Line, and areas along and south of the following roads: Glover Road; Oak Ridge Road; Rhodes Cemetery Road; Meridale Drive.

**Zone D (Green)** – Includes all areas in Zone C, in addition to areas east of Springhill Road to the Leon/Jefferson County Line, and areas along and south of the following roads: Capital Circle SW; Capital Circle SE; Tram Road.

or call the Citizens Information Line at (850) 606-3700 to learn about shelter openings.

# RECOVER

## In the aftermath of a disaster

During a disaster, services could be impacted, including electric, water, and sewer. When preparing, consider that you could be without these important utilities for an extended period.

### Electric outages

For City of Tallahassee customers, report electric outages via the City's DigiTally App, [Talgov.com/Outage](http://Talgov.com/Outage), or by calling (850) 891-4968. During major events, the City will send information directly to utility customers. Keep your contact details current by visiting [Talgov.com/Update](http://Talgov.com/Update) or by calling (850) 891-4968.

For Talquin Electric members, you can report an electric outage by calling 1-866-899-4832 (Automated System) or 1-888-802-1832 (Live Operator) or text #OUTAGE to 85700. Sign up for text alerts at [TalquinElectric.com](http://TalquinElectric.com). Download Talquin's iPhone app from the App Store.

Duke Energy customers, call 1-800-228-8485.

Expect longer wait times during major events.

### Food Safety

**TWO DAYS:** The approximate time frozen items can be stored safely if you keep the freezer door shut.

**FOUR HOURS:** If your refrigerator's power is out for longer than this time, move perishable foods into an ice-filled cooler.

### Generators

If you are considering purchasing a portable generator, the City of

Tallahassee offers a low-interest loan program for qualified homeowners. To be eligible, a transfer switch and interconnect agreement are required. Get details by calling 891-4968.

A generator can keep your appliances going after a disaster, but it comes with several dangers:

**CARBON MONOXIDE:** Use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors to avoid exposure to this deadly, colorless, odorless gas. Never operate a generator indoors.

**FIRE:** Make sure the generator is cool when refilling the fuel tank and store flammable fuel away from fuel-burning appliances.

**ELECTRICAL SHOCK:** An electrical shock from your generator can kill you.

- Keep generator in a dry place.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, three-pronged extension cord.
- Never plug into a wall outlet; this can cause electrocution.

### Water impacts

If the drinking water supply is compromised by a disaster, a boil water notice will be issued, which means there's a possibility of contamination.

**BOIL:** Bring a pot of water to a rolling boil for 1 minute to kill bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

**BLEACH:** Add 1/8 tsp. of unscented

bleach per gallon of water and let stand for 30 minutes; bleach used should contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. This is less effective but will work if there's no way to boil water.

### Sewer outage

If a sewer outage is announced, **DO NOT** flush your toilet. Powered sewer lift stations may be down, which could cause a sewage back-up in your home.

### Emergency toilets

Use a chemical toilet or create an emergency toilet by one of the following methods:

**5-GAL BUCKET:** Line with heavy-duty trash bag and use household bleach as disinfectant. Make sure it has a tight lid.

**TOILET BOWL:** Turn off your outside water supply first and flush once to empty before lining with a trash bag. Do not use kitty litter — it cannot be flushed after the sewer system is running.

### Safe driving

After a storm, roads may be littered with debris and many routes may be flooded. Avoid unnecessary travel and, if you must venture out, always obey Road Closed signs.

Never drive through standing water. Turn around, don't drown! Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an "all way" stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.



# PICKING UP THE PIECES

Following these specific guidelines when hauling hurricane-related debris and household garbage to the curb will make for a speedier removal process

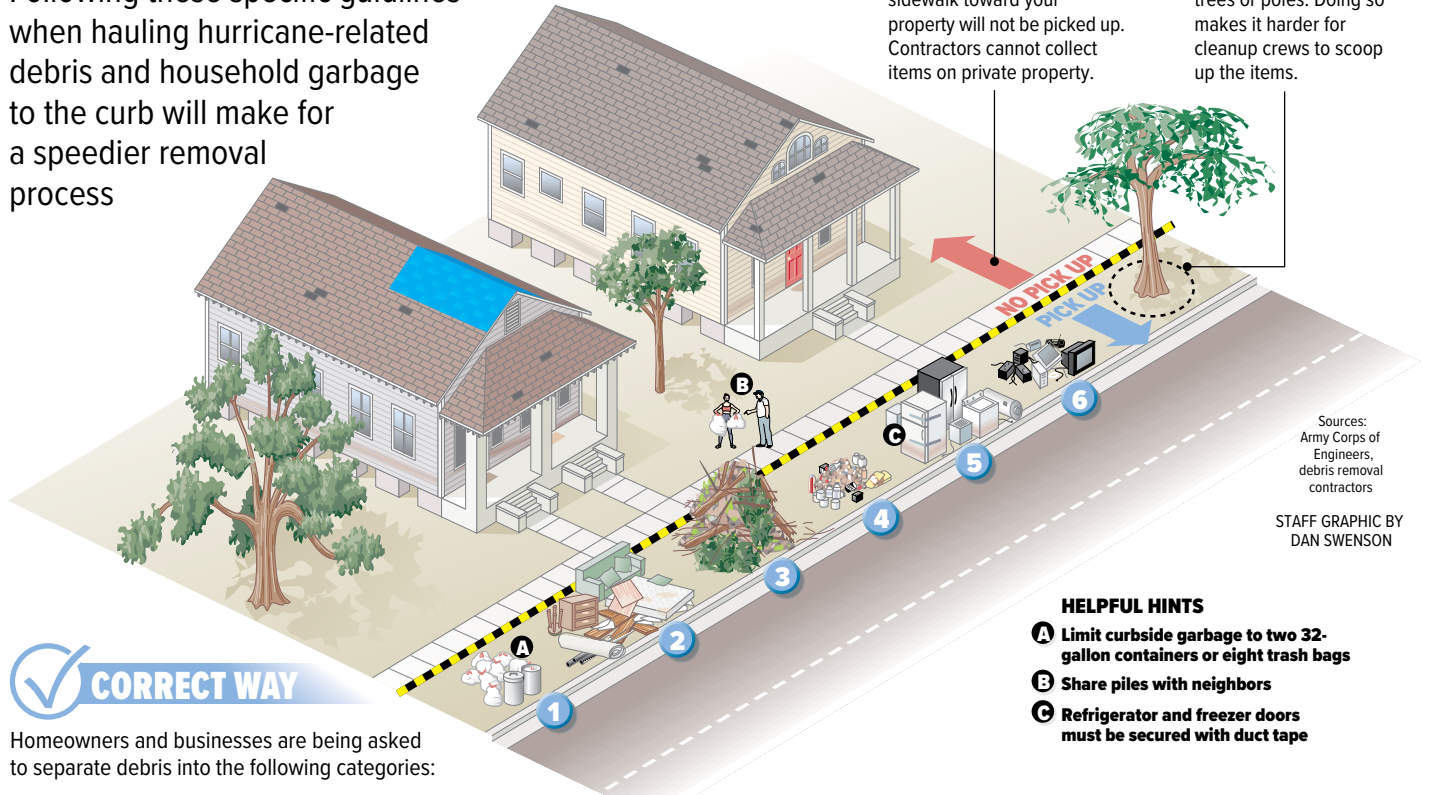
## WRONG WAY

### CROSSING THE LINE

- Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up. Contractors cannot collect items on private property.

### PROPPING UP

- Do not set debris against trees or poles. Doing so makes it harder for cleanup crews to scoop up the items.



Sources:  
Army Corps of  
Engineers,  
debris removal  
contractors

STAFF GRAPHIC BY  
DAN SWENSON

## CORRECT WAY

Homeowners and businesses are being asked to separate debris into the following categories:

### 1 HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE

- Bagged trash
- Discarded food
- Packaging, papers
- All garbage should be placed curbside the night before the scheduled weekly pickup.

### 2 CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS

- Building materials
- Drywall
- Lumber
- Carpet
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Plumbing

### 3 VEGETATION DEBRIS

- Tree branches
- Leaves
- Logs

### 4 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Oils
- Batteries
- Pesticides
- Paints
- Cleaning supplies
- Compressed gas

### 5 'WHITE' GOODS

- Refrigerators
- Washers, dryers
- Freezers
- Air conditioners
- Stoves
- Water heaters
- Dishwashers

### 6 ELECTRONICS

- Televisions
- Computers
- Radios
- Stereos
- DVD players
- Telephones

### HELPFUL HINTS

- A** Limit curbside garbage to two 32-gallon containers or eight trash bags
- B** Share piles with neighbors
- C** Refrigerator and freezer doors must be secured with duct tape

## Price gouging

In a declared state of emergency, it is illegal to sell necessary goods or services at increased prices. If you believe a business or individual is price gouging, call the Attorney General's Office at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226).

## Who to call

- 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies or (850) 606-5800 for non-emergency public safety assistance.
- Citizen Information Line for the latest emergency updates, (850) 606-3700 or use 7-1-1 Florida Relay.

- Contact 2-1-1 Big Bend for 24-hour social services assistance by dialing 2-1-1 or (850) 617-6333.
- For City of Tallahassee Utility information, call (850) 891-4968.
- For Talquin Electric, call 1-888-802-1832.
- For Duke Energy call 1-800-228-8485.

# HAZARDS

## Surviving all hazards

While hurricanes pose a major threat to Leon County, there are other potential disasters that threaten lives and property. From violent tornadoes to hazardous chemical spills, it is critical to know what to do when warnings are issued.

- Identify a meeting location should an incident prevent you from getting home.
- Build a disaster bucket for potential disasters.
- Locate a safe room you can retreat to in the event of severe weather events such as thunderstorms and tornadoes.

## Thunderstorms and lightning

Thunderstorms are a common occurrence in Florida, especially during the summertime. The Sunshine State sees about 1.4 million lightning strikes in an average year and we lead the nation in lightning-related deaths. About 10 percent of thunderstorms are severe, with winds 58 mph or stronger and 1-inch hail. Keep an eye on the weather forecast before you venture outdoors and heed nature's warning when you hear the sky start to rumble.

### Seek shelter

Every thunderstorm produces lightning. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike. Go inside or find shelter immediately. Wait 30 minutes after hearing the last crash of thunder before going back outdoors.

### When thunder roars, go indoors!

If you're indoors during a thunderstorm, stay away from anything that conducts electricity, such as corded phones, electrical appliances, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows.



### If stuck outdoors ...

- Get off any elevated areas.
- Do not shelter under an isolated tree.
- Get as far away from water as possible.

## Downed power lines

- Do not touch downed power lines.
- Assume all downed power lines are energized.
- Contact your utility provider to report downed power lines. See page 10 for contact information.

## Man-made and biological hazards

### Terrorism and active shooters

Unlike a hurricane, there may be no warning for a terrorist attack, but you can plan ahead by taking the steps referenced earlier: emergency contacts, emergency alerts, a meeting place and a disaster bucket. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see something — report it to law enforcement. Report suspicious activities to the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement at 1-855-FLA-SAFE.

### Pandemic

In our global society, infectious diseases can spread quickly by human contact, animals, insects or food. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is the agency responsible for warning the public about pandemic health hazards. The Florida Department of Health in Leon County may also issue warnings and advice. For more information, visit the website of the CDC at [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov) or the Florida Dept. of Health at [Leon.FloridaHealth.gov](http://Leon.FloridaHealth.gov).

## Tornadoes

Tornadoes can form quickly during thunderstorms any time of year creating high velocity wind and blowing dangerous debris. In Florida, the average warning time before a tornado hits is only 12 minutes. You may only have moments to make a life-or-death decision.

### Watches vs. Warnings

**TORNADO WATCH:** Tornadoes are possible in your area; monitor radio or TV reports for further developments.

**TORNADO WARNING:** A tornado has been sighted in your area. Proceed to safe room immediately.

### Safe rooms

Designate a safe room where you can stay during a tornado in your home, office, or other places you go frequently. Good safe room options include: bathrooms, interior hallways, the center of a building, and spaces on the ground floor away from windows.

### Mobile Homes

Mobile homes are not safe from the violent winds of a tornado. Identify a safe place in a sturdy building you can go to when tornadoes are possible.

### Vehicles

Vehicles are easily overturned in a tornado, so get out and seek shelter in a sturdy building. Do not try to outrun or outmaneuver a tornado!

## Floods

Flooding is a year-round threat. Sometimes floods develop slowly and forecasters can anticipate where a flood will happen days or weeks before it occurs. Oftentimes flash floods can occur within minutes and sometimes without any sign of rain.

### Know your flood risk

- For your FEMA Flood Zone, visit [LeonCountyFL.gov/floodprotection](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/floodprotection).
- If you live in an area prone to flooding, consider sandbags or another type of barrier to keep water out of your home in minor flood events.
- Remember: Homeowner's insurance policies don't cover flood damage. Consider extra flood coverage.

- A new flood policy takes 30 days to take effect.

### Stay out of the water

- Do not drive through standing water and obey "road closed" signs. It only takes a foot of water to make vehicles float. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Do not walk through flood waters. It only takes six inches of water to knock you down.
- Don't go into any room if water has submerged electrical outlets or cords.
- After a flood, stay out of standing water or structures until authorities advise it's safe. Standing water could contain toxins, chemicals, dangerous debris and wildlife.

Learn more about floods: Leon County has a comprehensive website on our area's flood hazards and how residents can become better prepared: [LeonCountyFL.gov/floodprotection](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/floodprotection).

## Hazardous materials

Hazardous materials are part of daily life. Should a chemical spill or other hazardous material release occur, there are a few basic steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Shelter-in-place if local authorities ask you to do so.
- Turn off the air conditioning/ventilation system and seal windows and doors to prevent outside air from coming in. Plastic sheeting can help seal cracks around doors and windows.
- Remain indoors and wait for further instructions through the local media and emergency notification systems.

## Wildfires

Droughts and freezes create an ideal situation for wildfires. With so many trees in Leon County, the threat of wildfires is always present. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will take if there is a fire in your neighborhood or your home.

- Identify at least two escape routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Practice fire drills so everyone knows what to do.
- If advised, evacuate immediately.



# Stay engaged

The agencies below are critical during any disaster. Please consider learning more about volunteering with these nonprofits partners.



**American  
Red Cross**

**(850) 878-6080**

[RedCross.org/NorthFlorida](http://RedCross.org/NorthFlorida)

When disaster strikes, volunteers play a critical role in recovery efforts and providing needed relief to victims. Consider becoming an American Red Cross Disaster Volunteer. Employees with the State of Florida, Leon County, and City of Tallahassee are eligible for 15 days of disaster leave by becoming a Red Cross Volunteer.



**2-1-1 or (850) 617-6333**

[211BigBend.org](http://211BigBend.org)

2-1-1 Big Bend, Inc. serves as the preferred 24/7 gateway to community information, services and support any day of the year, including times of community emergencies. Trained hotline counselors provide emotional support, crisis assistance, information about local services, and referrals that contain accurate, up-to-date resource information. The agency's resource database contains more than 1,000 programs in the Big Bend area with subjects including housing assistance, emergency shelter, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, child development, employment, food pantries, and more.



**(850) 222-0304**

[SalvationArmyFlorida.org/Tallahassee](http://SalvationArmyFlorida.org/Tallahassee)

The Salvation Army of Tallahassee serves disaster survivors and relief workers with food, emotional support, and other critical services. The Salvation Army's disaster team consists of staff and volunteers who conduct wellness checks, feed hot meals, drinks and snacks directly from our canteen, provide spiritual care, and assist in distributing food, water, clothing, and clean-up kits to residents who are affected or have been displaced by a disaster.

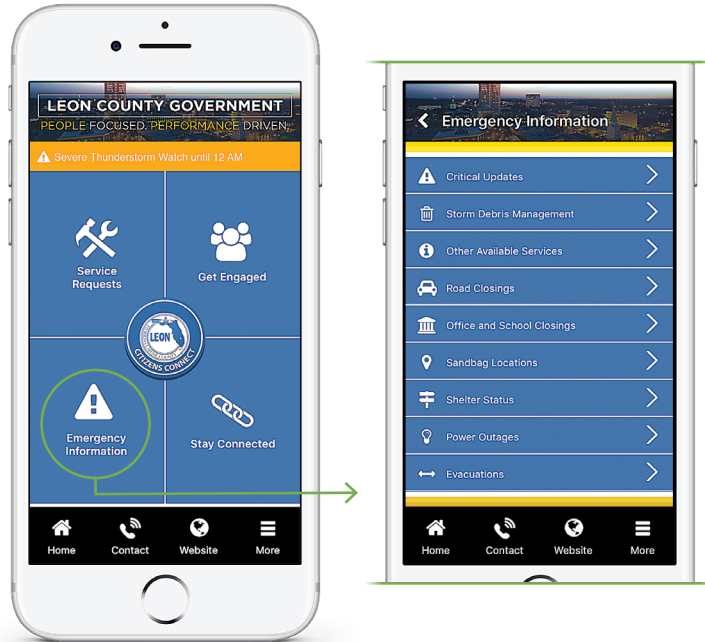


**(850) 606-1970**

[VolunteerLEON.org](http://VolunteerLEON.org)

During an emergency, VolunteerLEON organizes the Citizens Information Line and coordinates the Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD). COAD provides a structure for non-profit organizations, and the faith-based community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disaster. COAD focuses on coordinating efforts to best serve communities. Nonprofit partners include: 2-1-1 Big Bend, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Catholic Charities, Florida Baptist Active in Disaster, Goodwill, Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, and more.

# Stay informed



## Citizens Connect App

Download the Leon County Citizens Connect App, your best source of emergency news and alerts. The most critical information will be delivered by push notifications directly to your phone or tablet.

The Leon County Citizens Connect App puts up-to-the-minute emergency information at your fingertips, such as weather alerts, road closings, sandbag locations, and so much more.

The County's App provides a single source of emergency information verified by public safety agencies, emergency management professionals, and other crews in the field.



- **Critical Updates:** announces the most important community updates, such as comfort stations, points of distribution, and price gouging alerts and road closings.
- **Storm Debris Management:** after disasters, this section details debris collection and removal.
- **Sandbag Locations:** lists locations and addresses for sandbag distribution, including a map of sites.
- **Power Outages:** provides information on power outages.
- **Evacuations:** provides a map of evacuation routes for Leon County and other real-time updates.



## DOWNLOAD DIGITALLY

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

From Finding your bus to paying your bills, we put the City at your fingertips. Power out? Tree trouble? Take a picture of City issues and we'll handle it.



**LeonCountyFL.gov/ei**  
**Twitter:** @LeonCounty  
**Facebook:** @LeonCountyFL  
**Mobile App:**  
 Leon County Citizens Connect  
**Citizens Information Line:**  
 (850) 606-3700



**Talgov.com**  
**Twitter:** @COTNews  
**Facebook:** @COTNews  
**Mobile App:** DigiTally  
 (850) 891-4968



If you are unable to use your smartphone, tablet, or computer, timely and critical updates will be provided by emergency management officials on 88.9 WFSU-FM radio. By partnering with WFSU, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee will help ensure that any citizen with radio access stays informed before, during, and after a disaster.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**(850) 606-3700**

[LeonCountyFL.gov/ei](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/ei) | [HaveAHurricanePlan.com](http://HaveAHurricanePlan.com)

**Capital Area Chapter of  
the American Red Cross**  
**(850) 878-6080**  
[RedCross.org/NorthFlorida](http://RedCross.org/NorthFlorida)

**2-1-1 Big Bend**  
**Dial 2-1-1**  
(850) 617-6333 (NEED)  
[211BigBend.org](http://211BigBend.org)

**Franklin County  
Emergency Management**  
Apalachicola  
**(850) 653-8977**  
[FranklinEmergencyManagement.com](http://FranklinEmergencyManagement.com)

**Gadsden County  
Emergency Management**  
*Quincy*  
**(850) 875-8642**  
[GadsdenSheriff.org/Emergency\\_Mgmt.html](http://GadsdenSheriff.org/Emergency_Mgmt.html)

**Jefferson County  
Emergency Management**  
*Monticello*  
**(850) 342-0211**  
[JeffersonCountyFL.gov](http://JeffersonCountyFL.gov)

**Liberty County Emergency  
Management**  
*Bristol*  
**(850) 643-2339**  
[LibertyCountyFlem.com](http://LibertyCountyFlem.com)

**Madison County  
Emergency Management**  
*Madison*  
**(850) 973-3698**  
[MadisonCountyFL.com/  
EmergencyManagement](http://MadisonCountyFL.com/EmergencyManagement)

**Taylor County Emergency  
Management**  
*Perry*  
**(850) 838-3575**  
[TaylorCountyEM.com](http://TaylorCountyEM.com)

**Wakulla County  
Emergency Management**  
*Crawfordville*  
**(850) 745-7200**  
[WCSO.org/Emergency-  
Management](http://WCSO.org/Emergency-Management)



# LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

People Focused. Performance Driven.

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**American  
Red Cross**

